



# How Misogynistic is Rap?

## Lyrical and Comparative Analysis of Misogyny in Rap Music

Michael Cao, Michael Wang, Indy Gu  
{mccao, zwan867, wgu35} @emory.edu

### Examining Stereotypes

- Rap music and associated hip hop culture is one of the US's big cultural exports.
- Rap Music is stereotyped as one of the most misogynistic genres of music.
- Concerns about the role of rap & hip hop culture on the transmission of misogyny in pop culture.
- Few prior works have tried to examine the prevalence of sexism in lyrics, none have made comparisons between genres and tried to address its underlying causes.

### Questions We Want to Answer:

1. Is rap music really more misogynistic than other music genres?
2. Is more misogynistic music more popular, and thus a better business model, or is this misogynistic content a reflection of American cultural and social norms?

### Data

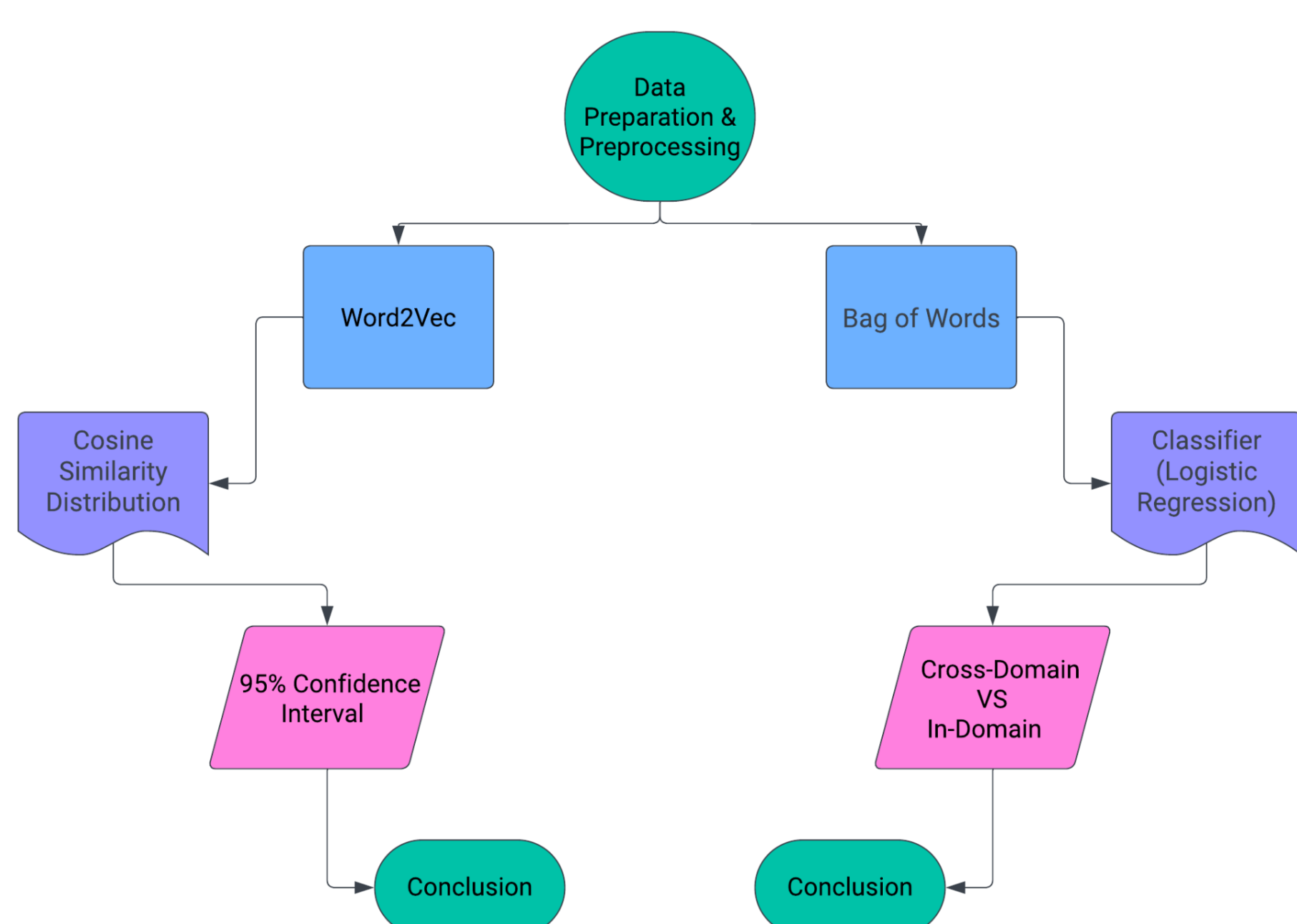
#### Lyrics:

4,578 rap lyrics, 1,840 non-rap lyrics collected from lyric databases

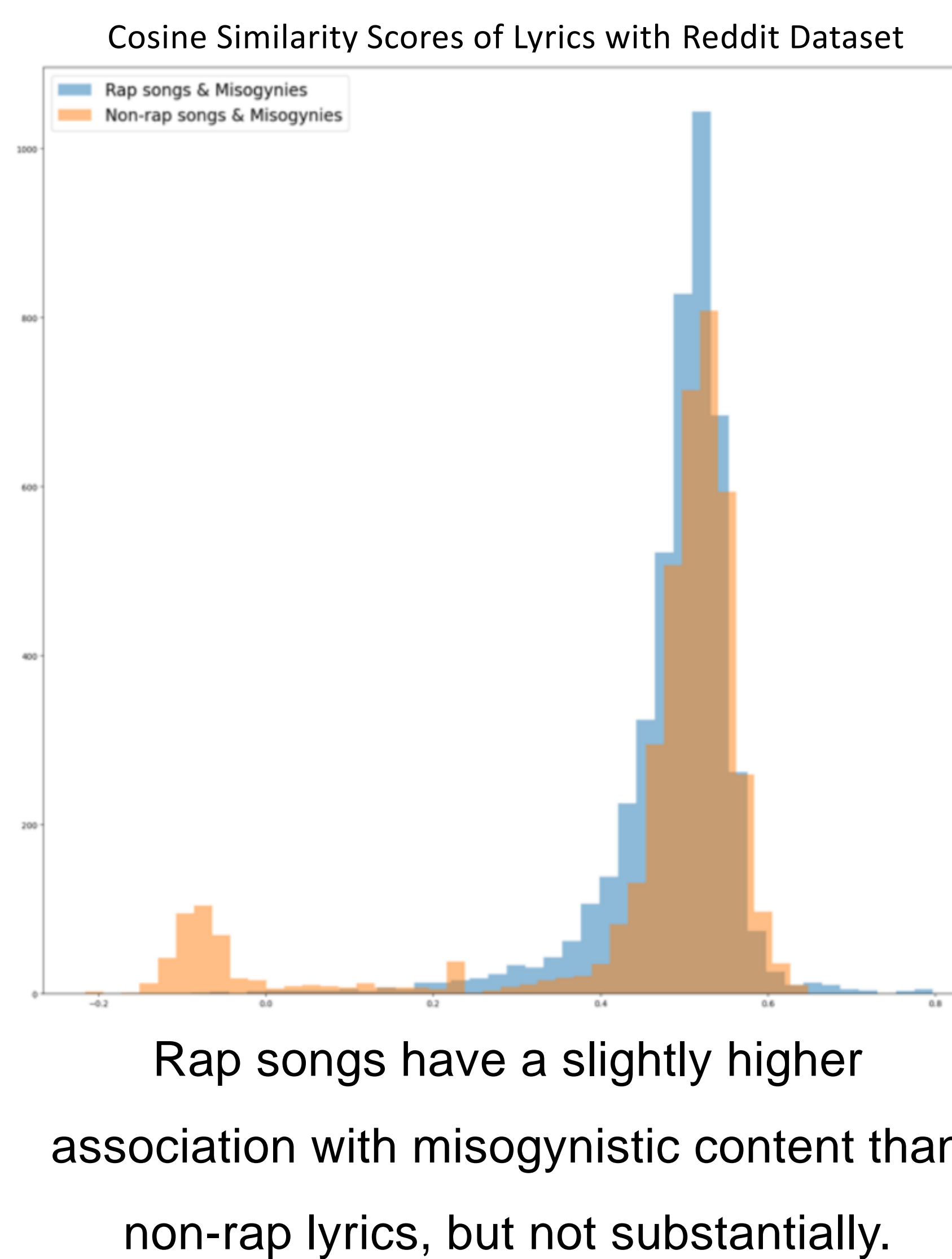
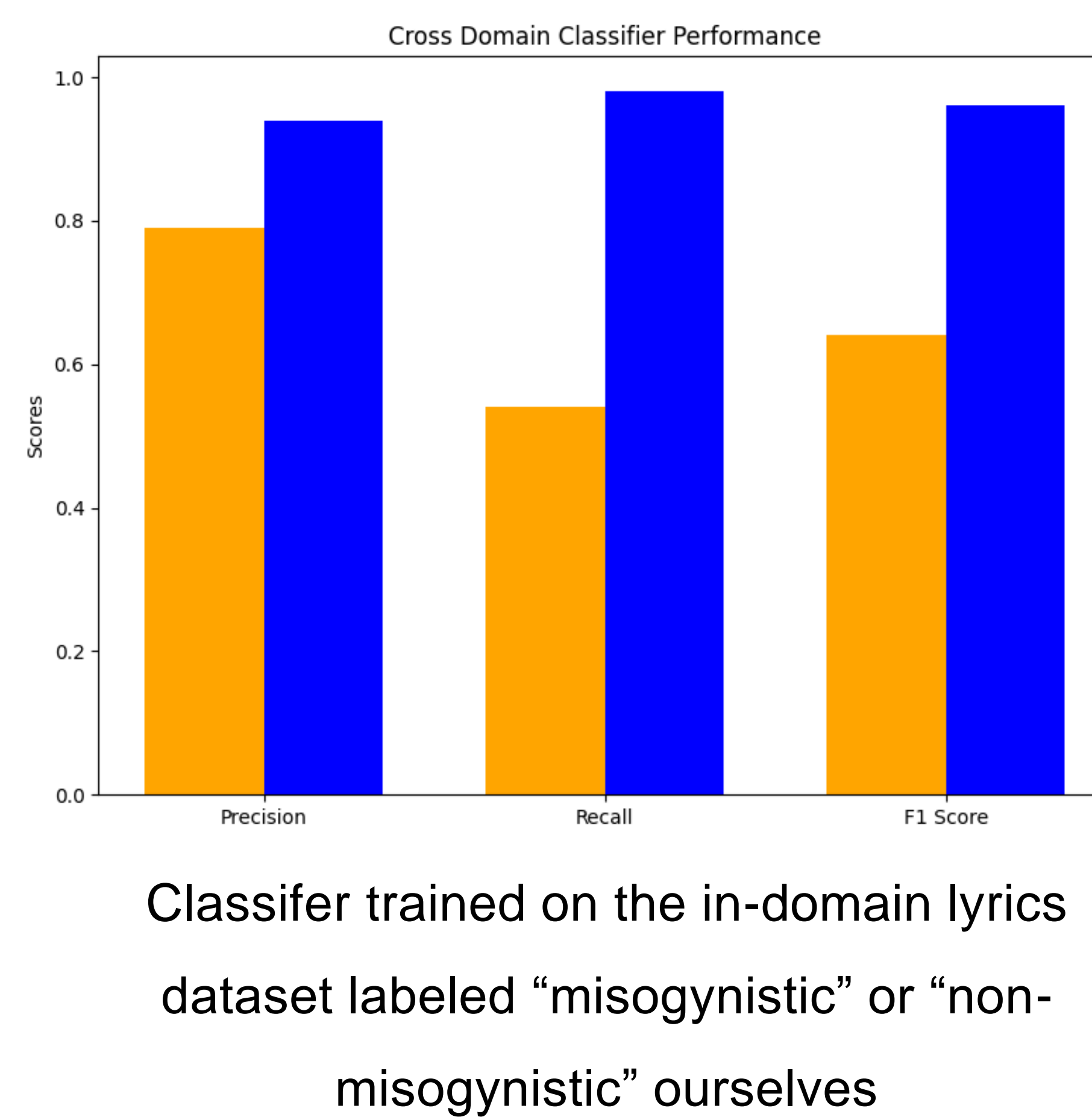
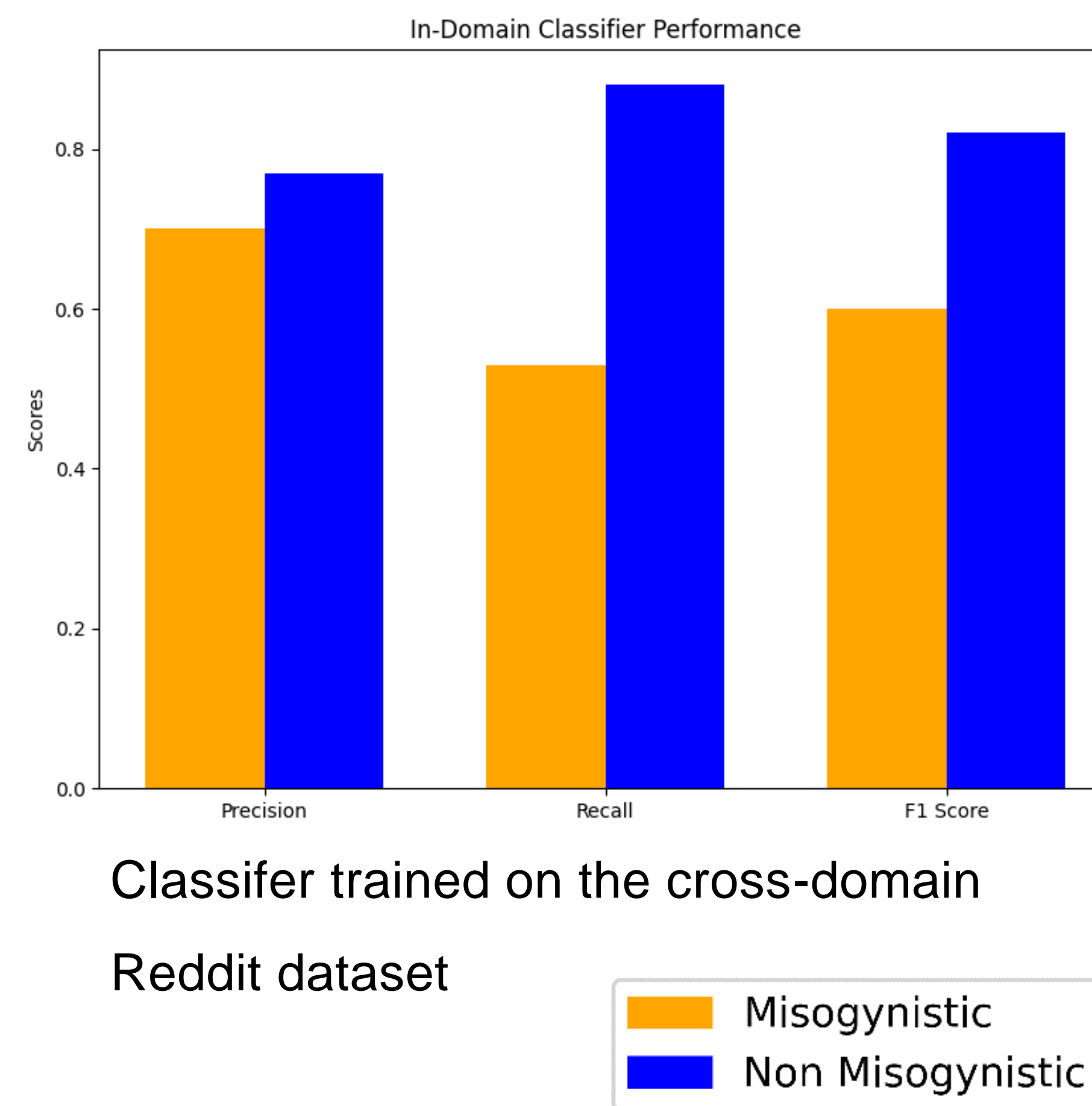
#### Misogynistic Terms:

Dataset of 6,567 Reddit posts scraped and labeled

### Method



### Comparison/Classification Results



### Conclusions

- Rap generally presents a higher association with misogyny than many genres of music
- There are non-rap genres and specific artists which produce greater misogyny than found generally in rap.
- In regressing song popularity and misogyny, no correlation between the two was found. This suggests that misogyny in music does not influence popularity.

### Answers to our questions:

1. **No, rap is not broadly more misogynistic than other genres.**
2. **It seems that misogyny in music is more cultural than business.**

### Future Directions

- Explore more in-depth how misogyny that exists within American culture affects music.
- Gather a larger in-domain labeled dataset and experiment with other classification models. This may produce a more accurate classifier. Coupled with a wider assortment and broader song lyric dataset, these methods could be repeated at a larger scope.

### Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge Dr. Sandeep Soni for his guidance throughout this project.